

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 have been allowed.

In response to a February 5, 2004 telephone call from the Examiner, applicants submit this amendment. Applicants understanding is that the Examiner finds overlapping subject matter between the instant claims and claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,183,726, specifically, where W5 and X5 are either $-C((CH_2)_zOH)_2$ or $C((CH_2)_zCO_2H)_2$ in the '726 patent, and in the present application where W is CR^1R^2 , when R^1 and R^2 are either $-(CH_2)_aCO_2H$ or $-(CH_2)_aOH$. To expedite prosecution, applicants believe they have canceled each embodiment where R^1 and R^2 are either $-(CH_2)_aCO_2H$ or $-(CH_2)_aOH$.

Claim 16 has been amended to correct a clerical error in which the term "compound" was inadvertently omitted.

Applicants submit that no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to contact the undersigned if applicants' understanding is incorrect.

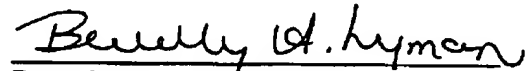
CONCLUSION

Applicants do not believe any fee is due with this submission, however, the Examiner is authorized to charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

The Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative with any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS. L.L.P.



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